



## Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

### Wildlife Division – Region 2



#### *Brule/Buffalo Counties*

*Diana Schroeder*



#### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

The walleye bite has slowed down recently in the Chamberlain area. Fishermen have been catching smaller walleyes 14-16 inches in the Chamberlain area. The walleye bite has slowed down at Ft. Thompson as well. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The fish cleaning stations are open in the Chamberlain area and Ft. Thompson. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge is open to fishing from a boat until December.

Be sure to double check your boat safety equipment (sufficient life jackets for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and a throw able device) and boat registration before hitting the water.



#### **Hunting Report:**

The 2014 Hunting and Trapping Handbooks are now available!

The September Canada Goose season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15 doves and a possession limit of 45 doves. Be sure to check the boundaries of the open areas in Brule and Buffalo Counties. The boundary includes SD Hwy 34, east of Lees Blvd.; southeast to SD Hwy 34; east 7 miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Ave.; south to I-90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Ave.; south and east on SD Hwy 50 to Geddes. An annual small game or combination license, state migratory bird certification, and federal waterfowl stamp are required for hunting this season. Canada Geese have been reported in the southeast portion of Brule County near Torey Lake. Canada goose season, Unit 2, is closed west of Hwy 50 south down to 350<sup>th</sup> Ave until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This area includes Red Lake. Speckled bellies have been reported moving into the area.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone opened September 27<sup>th</sup> east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone opened October 11<sup>th</sup> which includes west of Hwy 50. Several hunters have reported harvesting ducks near the Holoubek Game Production Area south of Kimball.

Dove season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> until November 9<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15; possession limit 45. Dove shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. A person may not hunt mourning doves on or within 50 yards of a public road. A person may not shoot a mourning dove unless the bird is flying. A person may not hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more

than 3 shells. A small game license and migratory bird certification is required. The doves are starting to leave the area due to colder weather.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opened September 20<sup>th</sup>. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. The regular pheasant season opened for residents and nonresidents on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Hunters reported seeing any roosters on the public hunting areas near Chamberlain. Hunters have reported seeing most of the pheasant south of Kimball.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Bow season for deer opened September 27<sup>th</sup> state wide.

Fall turkey season opens November 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been reports of turkeys on Boyer GPA recently.

## ***Campbell County***

*Doug DeLaRoi*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Small lakes have had no use. Lake Oahe has had spotty success with anglers catching walleye from 14 to 18 inches.



### **Hunting Report:**

Good numbers of ducks and geese remain in the area. Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

## ***Corson/Dewey Counties***

*Shawn Madison:*



### **Fishing Report:**

**Pudwell Dam:** Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

**Morristown East:** No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

**Morristown West:** No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches

**Trail City Dam:** Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

**Little Moreau #1:** Activity low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. Some large crappies and bluegill.

**Little Moreau #2:** Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. Stocked 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014. Another stocking of 1200 rainbows the third week of September.

**Isabel Lake:** Some activity. Walleyes being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught. Fish from the new fishing dock.

**Eagle Butte Dam:** Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



### **Hunting Report:**

Unit 1 Canada Goose opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> as well. Lots of local geese in the area. Hunters should have plenty of luck. Do your scouting and don't forget to ask permission. Grouse is open, hatch was fair but numbers are still low. Hunters had mixed success but overall a good experience. 70 percent of the harvest was young birds. Some reports of partridge in spots. Pheasant opened last weekend, numbers are better than last year but still below the ten year average. Hunters had mixed success averaging about one bird a piece. Lots of hunters on public lands and WIA. Birds are very flighty.

## ***Charles Mix/Douglas Counties***

*Jeff Martin*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Anglers have been catching fish from Platte Creek and south. Most have been pulling plugs in deep water.



### **Hunting Report:**

Cooler weather and more corn coming out this week should make the pheasant hunting better. This should also make the archery hunting better, deer will have less corn to hide in and cooler weather will hopefully get them moving. New ducks and geese may also be riding in on the stiff NW winds.

## ***Gregory County***

*Hans Walleser*



### **Fishing Report:**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant season opened on Saturday. Hunters were having good success in areas that held water. Bird numbers are looking really good in south central South Dakota.

Daily limit is 3 roosters and possession limit is 15.

Shooting hours are 10 am till sunset.

A fully feathered head, attached foot, or fully feathered attached leg is required to transport birds not processed at a licensed processing facility. Birds from a processor may be breasted out as long as they are accompanied by a receipt stating what the birds are.

Nontoxic shot is required on game production areas and waterfowl management areas.

Please take your cleanings with you and dispose of them in an appropriate trash receptacle.

Numerous violations have been addressed with the majority of them stemming from illegal road hunting.

If you are road hunting, please follow these easy steps in order to be legal.

1. Purchase a license.
2. Make sure you are 660 feet away from any occupied dwelling, school, church, and/or livestock.
3. Pull your vehicle as far to the right side of the road as possible.
4. Turn off your vehicle and step outside.
5. Close your doors. All of them.
6. Hunt safely.

You must have permission to hunt private property.

Any questions or concerns may be addressed to Wildlife Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475.

Have fun and be safe.

## ***Hyde/Hand Counties***

*Cory Flor*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

There were 400 rainbow trout stocked in Crystal Pond at Crystal Park in Miller. There will be a small youth fishing derby on October 26 from noon until 2pm. The pond is open to anyone 17 yrs. old and younger.



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant hunters did well opening weekend and have been doing fair over the last few days.

**Hughes County**  
John Murphy



### **Fishing Report:**

Catching a few walleyes in the antelope Creek area on nice days and also in the Oahe tailrace at night.



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant hunters have been doing well in thick cover. Hunters are averaging 2.5 birds per hunter. Pheasant hunters are reminded to wear hunter orange for safety. Pheasant hunting is improving as the crops are coming out. Archery deer hunters are seeing more deer and should continue to see plenty of deer with harvest in full swing now. Seeing some Sandhill Cranes migrating which indicates the waterfowl should start moving shortly with a change of weather.

Hunters are reminded they need to have permission to hunt private property.

### Road Hunting Rules

#### **Hunting on Public Road Rights-of-Way**

Laws and rules governing trespass and motor vehicles are complex. The laws may be simplified if the hunter

remembers to hunt only on foot during established seasons, to ask permission to enter private land, and not

to drive on state and federal lands. It is also advisable to restrict vehicular travel in wet weather when roads,

trails, rangeland, and cropland could be damaged and in dry conditions when fire danger is high.

*ATTENTION DOG OWNERS: Hunters who hunt road rights-of-way should understand they must*

*maintain control of their hunting dogs at all times. Dog owners who allow their animals to remain*

*on private property without landowner permission for the purpose of flushing game birds may be subject to trespassing charges. Dogs may be used in the unarmed retrieval of lawfully taken waterfowl and small game birds from private property. However, under no circumstances may dogs be used to intentionally flush birds from private property to hunters in the road rights-of-way.*

Road rights-of-way, excluding the Interstate highway system, are open for the hunting of small game

and waterfowl (see Mourning Dove, Youth Pheasant, and Resident-Only Pheasant seasons for special

road hunting restrictions). However, no person, except the adjoining landowner or any person receiving

written permission from the adjoining landowner, may use such highways or rights-of-way for the purposes

of discharging any firearm or for the purposes of hunting within a 660-foot safety zone surrounding an

occupied dwelling, a church, schoolhouse, or livestock. Neither the person discharging a firearm at small

game nor the small game being shot at may be within the 660-foot safety zone.

The rights-of-way along a section line or other highway is open for hunting if:

1. The rights-of-way has been commonly used by the public for vehicular travel, as demonstrated

by the existence of a well-worn vehicle trail.

2. An intentional alteration or adaptation has been made to the rights-of-way to enhance the natural

terrain's utility for vehicular travel or to permit vehicular travel where it was not possible before.

**NOTE:** Fences are sometimes not on a rights-of-way boundary and sometimes there is no fence. Most

section line rights-of-way are 66 feet wide. Some acquired rights-of-way are wider.

- Hunters can take only small game (except mourning doves) and waterfowl within the rights-of-way

on foot. The hunter must be within the rights-of-way and the game must have taken flight from within

or be flying over the rights-of-way

- The person must park or stop their vehicle as far to the right-hand side of the road as possible

- If the person who discharges a firearm is more than 50 yards from the vehicle, the doors on the

side of the vehicle nearest the roadway must be closed, but the engine may remain running

- If the person who discharges a firearm is less than 50 yards from the vehicle, all of the doors of the

vehicle must be closed and the engine shall be turned off

- It is NOT legal to shoot small game and waterfowl that takes flight from rights-of-way over a Federal

Refuge or Indian Tribal Trust lands. If a state-licensed hunter shoots at a bird across the fence on either of these lands, the hunter may be subject to arrest by U.S. Fish & Wildlife officers

- Small game and waterfowl taken from the rights-of-way but falling onto private property can be

retrieved by unarmed hunters on foot

- No person may discharge a firearm, muzzleloader, crossbow or bow and arrow at any big game

animal, except turkey to be taken with a shotgun using shot shells or with a bow and arrow, from within

the rights-of-way of an improved public highway

- A person may not discharge a firearm or other weapon across or from any Black Hills National

Forest system road

- Any person who, while hunting road rights-of-way, negligently endangers another person, or puts that person in fear of imminent serious bodily harm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor

Brian Ridgway



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**  
No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant hunters were able to shoot a few birds during opening weekend. Most pheasant hunters experienced success on private grounds that manage for upland game birds. Hunters are reminded to obtain permission before entering private land. Hunters that are unarmed are allowed to enter private ground **ONLY** to retrieve downed small game. Hunters are not allowed to enter private ground, without permission, to attempt to flush, locate or retrieve downed small game while armed. Dogs are considered an extension of the hunter and should not be allowed on to private property other than to retrieve downed small game.

*Lyman County*  
Brian Ridgway



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Fishing on Lake Francis Case has been tough. Walleye bite has yet to pick up. Most anglers are catching smaller 12"-14" walleye and smallmouth. Crow Creek is holding a few nicer fish.



### **Hunting Report:**

Pheasant populations are up slightly from last year. Hunters are experiencing thick cover due to excellent growing conditions throughout the summer. Hunters are strongly encouraged to identify their target and what lies beyond before they shoot. Hunter incidents are not considered accidents, they are **100% avoidable**. It is strongly recommended that all members of the hunting group wear hunting orange. Hunters should avoid shooting birds below a 45 degree angle. Hunters need to be aware that hen pheasants are the future of our pheasant population. Every hen that is taken out of the population counts for 100's of lost broods.

*Potter County*  
Brad Saltsman



**Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:***

Potts Dam – No Activity,

Lake Hurley –No Activity

Simon Dam – No Activity.

Missouri River – fishing is very slow from Swan Creek south to the Sully County line. Anglers are reporting decent catches of walleye in the Morreau river. Salmon fishing is fair up in the Whitlock Bay area.



**Hunting Report:**

Dove – There are very few doves left in Potter and Walworth counties

Waterfowl – Hunting is better in the northeast corner of Potter county around the Tolstoy area. Several small lakes and sloughs have been holding resident geese. Not much for birds moving south yet.

Grouse – There are very few grouse in Potter and southern Walworth counties. Hunters will find the grouse in NW Potter and SW Walworth counties.

Deer – Archery Deer is underway. Potter County has a good deer population.

Pheasants – The regular pheasant season opened last Saturday. Hunters are reporting mixed success. Harvest is moderate because of the amount of standing corn and sunflowers. Success will improve as the harvest progresses.

**Stanley County**

Josh Thompson



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

**Twin Dams** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Hayes Lake** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Lake Oahe** – Anglers have been catching fish up at Cow Creek & Minneconjou.

**Lake Sharpe** – Catfish bite has been pretty good at the mouth of the Bad River and in the tailraces.



**Hunting Report:**

GFP encourages bird hunters to wear orange to be safe and be seen while hunting.



Daily limit for pheasants is 3 rooster pheasants

**Pheasant** – We are seeing a good amount of birds this year. Both Stanley County and the Fort Pierre Grasslands offer good areas to find some birds.

**Grouse** – Still seeing a good mix of sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chicken. Grouse can be a fun bird to hunt to add a little variety to your bag.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

## *Sully County*

Andy Schmahl



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River Report below.

No Report



**Hunting Report:**

No Report

## *Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties*

Chris Dekker



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River Report below

No Report



**Hunting Report:**

No Report

## *Walworth County*

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



**Fishing Report:** See Missouri River report below

Small lakes have seen little use with some success catching small perch and bullheads. Lake Oahe has had spotty success with anglers catching walleye from 14 to 18 inches.



## Hunting Report:

Good numbers of ducks and geese remain in the area. Pheasant hunters are finding success averaging 1 bird per hunter.

## Missouri River report:

### *Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe*

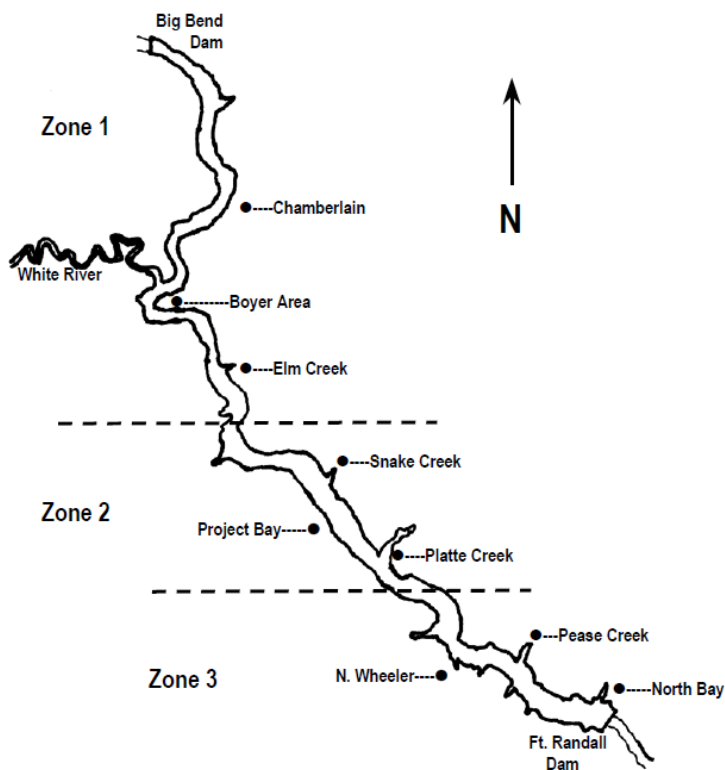
*Kyle Potter*

#### **Lake Oahe**

No Report

#### **Lake Sharpe**

No Report



### *Lake Francis Case*

*Rachel Tribble*

Zone 1 – The walleye bite has been tough throughout the upper third of the reservoir. Anglers are catching some smaller fish, and very few limits are being brought in. Shore anglers around the Chamberlain area seem to be catching more fish than the boat anglers.

Zone 2 – No fishing activity observed in this area.

Zone 3 – No fishing activity observed in this area.

**Reminder: Walleye/Sauger daily limit is 4 fish per day. The minimum length limit is 15" and the daily limit may include no more than one walleye/sauger 20" or longer.**